

DISSEMINATION OF
THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

KHMER REPUBLIC

According to the Khmer Red Cross Society, its efforts for the dissemination and development of international humanitarian law have had the following results since 1969:

The National Society has co-operated in translating *The Red Cross and My Country* which, with the *Teacher's Manual*, will shortly be printed and handed over to the Ministry of Education by the ICRC delegate at Phnom Penh.

A member of the Red Cross administrative council delivered a lecture on the Red Cross and the Geneva Conventions to the trainees at the Ministry of National Defence *Centre de formation des Cadres psychologiques*.

The Society's local committees in various provinces have also contributed considerably to the dissemination of the basic Red Cross principles and of the Conventions by explaining to the beneficiaries of relief distributions the significance of the Red Cross, its delegations and its mission.

The National Society has observed with satisfaction that the people, who have lived through two years of warfare, have acquired a much more extensive knowledge of the fundamental Red Cross principles. It is planning to distribute in the near future the booklet entitled "The Red Cross", translated into the national language, to various institutions as well as to its local committees.

The Ministry of National Defence of the Khmer Republic has had the *Soldier's Manual* translated and, with financial assistance from the ICRC, is having 25,000 copies printed. In December 1972, the ICRC delegation gave 400 copies to the military authorities in Battambang province, and in February 1973, 20,000 copies to the military authorities of the Republic.¹

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¹ *Plate.*

NORWAY

Humanitarian Law.—Norwegian Red Cross (NRC) has established a group of experts covering international law, military and civil defence expertise and some information service experience.

The terms of reference for the group are:

1. to be a forum for exchange of views on all matters pertaining to humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts;
2. to serve as consultants to Norwegian Red Cross in questions of development and dissemination of the Geneva Conventions;
3. to aid in the dissemination of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions.

Dissemination of knowledge.—The following steps have been taken:

1. NRC has printed and disseminated the Geneva Conventions throughout the Armed Forces.
2. NRC has produced a Summary of the Geneva Conventions which also has been distributed throughout the Armed Forces.
3. The Armed Forces have introduced provisions in conformity with the Geneva Conventions in their Rules and Regulations, which is an obligatory part of the military training for war.
4. NRC has made available experts for lectures concerning the Geneva Conventions in military courses.
5. Suggestions have been made to augment the time available in military schools for lectures in connection with the Geneva Conventions.
6. Suggestions have been made to make the administration of POWs an integral part of all military exercises in collaboration with the NRC Tracing Office.
7. Suggestions have been made to the universities to introduce the Geneva Conventions, through the Ministry of Education, in all elementary schools and colleges.

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

The following new lines of approach will be tried:

- a. The main organizations for different professional groups of our society run extensive adult educational courses for their members. NRC is going to approach them to include the Geneva Conventions in their curricula. NRC will supply the necessary material.
- b. Supplying informative articles on questions of international law in special periodicals of different professions. Special articles in daily newspapers on actual problems in connection with the Geneva Conventions. The aforementioned group of experts have taken this as a responsibility.

Intensifying public involvement is considered to be of paramount importance, especially in connection with the development of international law in a humanitarian direction. States have always been reluctant because of military reasons. The reluctance may be influenced through public opinion. Articles in newspapers of informative character with propagandistic point may be very useful to this end. The aforementioned group of experts are fully aware of this opportunity.

But even in the preparation of all parts of the population to adhere to the Geneva Conventions in time of war, there is a need, not only for information, but also for involvement.

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TOGO

The Togolese Red Cross Society recently described to the ICRC some of the activities it is carrying out in its campaign for spreading the principles of the Red Cross and the Geneva Conventions in Togo.

Several lectures, with films, aimed at a wide cross-section of the public, were organized throughout the country by the Togolese Red Cross, in co-operation with the ICRC Regional Delegate at Yaoundé. Other talks were also given to officers of the *Gendarmerie nationale*.

In order to draw the Government's attention to its obligations under the Geneva Conventions, documentary material, copies of the "Soldier's Manual" and ICRC posters were handed over to the General Staff and Central Command of the Togolese Armed Forces.

The University of Benin at Lomé was approached to introduce the teaching of the Geneva Conventions in its curricula of higher studies. In every issue of the bulletin published by the National Society appears an article referring to the significance of the international humanitarian Conventions, and the Junior Branch of the Red Cross, in their health promotion courses and Red Cross campaigns, inform their audiences about the Geneva Conventions.

More than 20,000 copies of the school textbook "The Red Cross and My Country", offered by the ICRC, have been distributed by the Ministry of National Education and by the Togolese Red Cross, a part having been sent through the Government to State schools in various parts of the country and the rest through the Red Cross in Lomé.